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It is reported that members of the Central Committee of the Lebanese Communist Party have discussed the need for increased cultural cooperation between Lebanese Communism and Soviet Russia. The Central Committee plans, therefore, to begin sending missions to Russia for advanced work and specialization. The new ministry is more favorable to the Lebanese Communists than the last one, especially the Premier, Riyad Sulh.

Now that the new ministry is in power, the Lebanese Communists are said to be anticipating the transfer of property formerly owned by Russians, to the Soviet Legation. After this is accomplished, a number of Russian schools will be established and promising graduates who know Russian will go to the USSR for advanced work. Before this is done, however, the Soviet Legation expects to send a number of men from Arab countries to the Arab Bureau in Moscow for training as teachers. Names of possible candidates are already being studied.

The realization of this plan is not expected before January 1948. Local societies for cultural cooperation will, in the meantime, be preparing for this purpose.

The Lebanese Minister to Moscow, Khalil Taqi-al-Din, is already urging the Lebanese Government to send a medical mission to Moscow to study Russian medical achievements during the war. After this has been accomplished, a precedent will have been set for other missions.

The newspaper Sawt al-Sha'b reportedly will urge the Lebanese Government to help realize the recommendations of its Minister to Moscow.

According to Wasfi al-Banna, who is a prominent Communist and editor of the pro-Communist magazine, al-Tariq, the Soviet Legation has granted that magazine 1,000 Lebanese pounds.

Qadri Qal'aji, another prominent Communist, and owner of al-Tariq, said that the Soviet Legation had granted a substantial gift to the Communist organization, "The Society of Cultural Union." George Jurdak, a teacher at the Patriarchal College, stated that the gift was 2,000 Lebanese pounds, and he added that the Soviet Legation had also subsidized Faraj-Allah Hilu's trip to Europe, as well as the trip of Antun Tabit.

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Extracted by F.L.R.